

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW ANTILLEAN SPHAERODACTYLUS.

BY THOMAS BARBOUR.

Not long since Dr. Don W. Griswold, in charge of the hook-worm campaign in the West Indies for the Rockefeller Board, sent me some additional reptiles from Antigua. His previous findings there included the interesting *Ameiva griswoldi* Barbour (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. 29, 1916, p. 216). The beautiful little creature which is the subject of this notice may be called

Sphaerodactylus elegantulus, sp. nov.

Type: M. C. Z. No. 12,084, from the island of Antigua, British West Indies, collected by Don W. Griswold, M. D., in 1917.

Snout rather short but acute, the distance from tip of snout to eye being about equal to distance of eye from ear opening, and nearly three times the diameter of the eye, which is rather small; rostral rather large with a long median cleft behind; nostril between rostral, first supralabial, two (?) small postnasals and a somewhat enlarged supranasal which is separated from its fellow on the opposite side by a single scale, which is slightly smaller than one of the supranasals; these three scales border the rostral posteriorly; three large supralabials to the center of the eye; above the middle of the eye the usual supraciliary spine is indicated by a single slightly prominent tubercle on each side; head and body, except belly covered with tiny round granular scales, those of crown of head by far the smallest, belly scales smooth, round, slightly imbricate; mental large, as large as rostral, followed by a very large, a medium sized and a very small infralabial; two small squarish postmentals slightly enlarged, scales of throat and chest granular; scales of limbs, round, flat or slightly swollen, not imbricate; scales on tail in whorls, squarish, flat, not imbricate, and larger on the lower than on the upper surface or sides.

Color: rich mahogany brown, the head lighter than the body; very narrow pure white cross bands arranged as follows, one on nape, one just anterior to and another just behind fore limbs, two across mid body region, one just before and another just behind hind limbs, four on tail the two distal rings more or less broken into dots. All of these rings are

sharply defined, of the same width and are all equidistant from each other. The belly is grayish and the rings do not extend beyond the brown area.

This species is similar in many respects to *S. elegans* MacLeay and *S. torrei* Barbour from Cuba, in fact I believe the species are all three somewhat closely related. It is markedly different from the *Sphaerodactyli* inhabiting the Virgin Islands and the Lesser Antilles and apparently also from the little known *S. sputator* from St. Eustatius, for in writing of the types, Andersson (Bihang till K. Svenska Vet.-Akad. Handl., 26, 4, 1900, p. 27) speaks of "the large keeled scales of the back" which indicates a species of a wholly different series.

Size: in general appearance, *i. e.*, with regard to size and habit especially, the type now described recalls at once *S. elegans*. It is a tiny species unless the little creature before me is immature. Additional specimens will be awaited with much interest. The type is 28 mm. in total length, and but 14 mm. from snout to vent.